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Docket No.: 6281-000027/US/NP
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ernst BOCK et al.

Application No.: National Phase of Confirmation No.: N/A
PCT/EP2004/013103

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: SUPPORT ELEMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.